

What is claimed is:

1. A computer-implemented interface for reclaiming memory in a multi-threaded virtual machine environment, the multi-threaded virtual machine environment including a virtual machine, the computer-implemented interface comprising:
 - 5 a first module, the first module being associated with the virtual machine, the first module including a first routine for initiating a garbage collection process within the virtual machine environment, a second routine for scanning roots associated with the virtual machine environment, a third routine for following roots through objects associated with the virtual machine environment; and
 - 10 a second module, the second module being separate from the first module, the second module being arranged to interface with the first module, the second module including a fourth routine for initializing a heap in the virtual machine environment, a fifth routine for allocating an object in the virtual machine environment, and a sixth routine for performing the garbage collection process.
2. A computer-implemented interface according to claim 1 wherein the second module further includes at least a seventh routine for implementing barriers for the garbage collection process.
- 20 3. A computer-implemented interface according to claim 2 wherein the barriers include a read barrier and a write barrier.
4. A computer-implemented interface according to claim 1 wherein the first module includes a seventh routine for handling particular objects associated with the virtual machine environment.